

Philene Taormina, Esq.

34 Wheelock Street, Montpelier, VT 05602 • (w) 802-951-1304 (h) 802-229-5065 • ptaormina@aarp.org

Professional Experience

Director of Advocacy

July 2002-present

AARP, Burlington, Vermont

- Direct legislative, regulatory, grassroots and media advocacy for state and federal policy issues including health care reform, Medicaid and fuel assistance.
- Work closely with volunteers, the state president and Executive Council to guide the association's legislative agenda, community education and outreach.
- Served as interim senior legislative representative, advising state advocacy staff on consumer protection issues nationwide from Oct. 2006 . Feb. 2007.
- Co-authored, Access to Utility Services: Home Energy Costs: The Threat to Independent Living for the Nation's Low-income Elders, published in the Jan./Feb. 2008 issue of *Clearinghouse Review: Journal of Poverty Law and Policy*.
- Served as interim state director, managing all aspects of the association's work in Vermont from May . November 2008.

Director of Government Relations and Advocacy

Oct. 1998 - July 2002

American Cancer Society, Montpelier, VT

- Managed advocacy staff and hundreds of state volunteers.
- Successfully advocated for multi-million dollar tobacco prevention and control program budget, tobacco control trust fund, tobacco control evaluation and review board, insurance coverage for cancer patients treated in clinical trials, access to lower prescription drug prices, and funding for breast and cervical cancer treatment for low-income women.
- Wrote and managed national and state grants.

Manager of Government Affairs

Jan.1997- Jan. 1998

Amtrak - Northeast Corridor, Philadelphia, PA

- Directed all aspects of state and federal government communications for train service in 13 northern corridor states and 140 train routes.
- Managed a staff of government relations associates.
- Negotiated contracts for state-funded train service in Vermont, Pennsylvania, New York and Maine.

Executive Assistant/Policy Analyst

May 1995 - Dec. 1996

Office of the Vermont State Auditor, Montpelier, VT

- Chief administrative and policy aide to the State Auditor.

Legislative Analyst

July 1989 - May 1993

U.S. House of Representatives, Committee on Education and Labor, Washington, DC

Congressional Fellowship recipient from the Women's Education and Research Institute (1989-90)

- Conducted oversight investigations into the employment conditions of Florida sugarcane cutters, illegal immigrant garment workers, and North Carolina chicken factory workers.

Legal Advocate for Vietnamese Refugees

Summer 1993

Georgetown Public Interest Law Scholar, Asia Watch, Hong Kong

- Prepared Vietnamese refugees for U.S. asylum status hearings.
- Investigated health and living conditions in Hong Kong refugee detention centers.

Education

Georgetown University Law Center, JD

Public Interest Law Scholar

Senior Articles Editor, *Georgetown Journal of Legal Ethics*
Student Defense Attorney, *Georgetown Criminal Law Clinic*

George Washington University, MA, Public Policy

Boston College, BA, Human Development

Professional Development and Civic Activities

Board of Directors

June 09-present

The Vermont Campaign to End Childhood Hunger, VT

Policy Leadership Fellow

Carsey Institute at the University of New Hampshire, NH

Sept. 2006

The fellows participated in strategic workshops to strengthen the collective capacity of northern New England to advance policies that help families, children and communities.

Board of Directors

Battered Women's Services Shelter, VT

Sept. 04 – Dec. 05

Assisted with policy and outreach to provide protective and support services to women and children impacted by domestic violence. Helped to guide the organization as it grew in size and services.

Board of Directors

RU12? (GLBT Community Center) Burlington, VT

Sept 04- Sept. 06

Provided policy and strategic guidance for the organizations outreach and community services to the GLBT community. Developed a high donor strategy for raising operating funds. Worked with staff on the transition of the organization as it merged and replaced the ED.

Member

Vermont Rail Council, VT

Sept. 02- March 04

Appointed by the Governor to serve on advisory commission to the Vermont Agency of Transportation on rail projects and state policy related to rail service.

Board of Directors

Aug. 01- Jan. 03

Vermont Council on the Humanities, VT

Member of the development committee during the transition to a new ED.

Co-Chair of Women's Section

Jan. 02- Jan. 03

Vermont Bar Association, VT

Responsible for planning and organizing Women's Section priorities, events, communications to membership, and coordination of projects. Published articles for the VT Bar Journal.

Fellow, Snelling Center for Government

2001 graduate

Vermont Leadership Institute, VT

Selected for professional achievement and ability, the program encourages and strengthens civic aspiration in Vermont. The coursework cultivates personal leadership qualities.

Fellow, American Cancer Society Fellowship Program

1999 graduate

Advocacy Institute, Washington, DC

Selected for demonstrated leadership capacity from a national application process. The program developed essential advocacy skills, organizational capacity and leadership.